

REMARKS

Claims 1, 2, 14 and 15 are amended herein. Support is found, for example, on page 19, lines 12-14. No new matter is presented.

I. Response to Claim Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1-23 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as allegedly being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,919,158 (Kawamura et al). The Examiner takes the position that the disclosure of Kawamura et al at column 23, lines 1-50 and column 24, lines 1-50 of selectively exposing the hydrophilic compound to exposure radiation causing polymerization and that the active sites (and not the inactive sites) undergo graft polymerization is relevant to the recitation of "imagewise forming a region to initiate polymerization".

Applicants respectfully traverse the reaction for the following reasons.

As indicated in the previous response, the "region having the ability to initiate polymerization" means "a region where an initiator having an ability to initiate polymerization is image-wise fixed" as explained on page 19 of the specification and as recited in amended independent claims 1 and 14. The cited reference does not teach image-wise fixation of an initiator having an ability to initiate polymerization, and thus does not disclose, teach or suggest the presently claimed invention. Thus, the presently claimed invention is not anticipated.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection.

II. Conclusion

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the

Amendment under 37 C.F.R. §1.114(c)
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Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

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